

SPN library  
1971

Sale of SS Crosby Collection

Haselline Auction June 27, 1883

p. 64 PENNSYLVANIA

Half pence of lightweight that  
circulated in Penna + were  
prohibited by procl from Council 7/14/1781

Lots #1242-1260 Evasions

Lot #1261 11 pieces off 1/2d 1772-78

HARRY EDISON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

EXECUTIVE OFFICES: 400 WASHINGTON AVE. MAIL: P. O. BOX 14020, ST. LOUIS, MO. 63178

EDISON BROTHERS STORES INC.

EB



George's III 1/2

1788

listed on p 183 of

Catalogue of NY State Library  
1856

published 1857

2 FOR 1 STOCK SPLIT

Motion to approve the 2 for 1 stock split and to amend the Articles of Incorporation.

( ) AGAINST ( )

( ) FOR ( )

Signature of Owner of Record or  
of Proxy Holder

\*Unless otherwise designated all shares shall be considered to have  
been voted (1) in favor of each of the above-named nominees and (2)  
in favor of the stock split and to amend the Articles of Incorporation.



Vol III  
1886

D.T. Batty, s

Descriptive Catalogue  
of the Copper Coins  
of Gr Br.

Ireland, British Isles  
and Colonies

25,000 varieties

1776 8

1777 4

1781 4

1784 1

1787 1

1794 1

1766 2

1769 ~~3~~

No fact  
late fathos

1770

$$\begin{array}{r} 3240 \\ 3214 \\ \hline 26 \end{array}$$

26

1771

$$\begin{array}{r} 3297 \\ 3242 \\ \hline 55 \end{array}$$

55

1772

$$\begin{array}{r} 3354 \\ 3300 \\ \hline 54 \end{array}$$

54

1773

$$\begin{array}{r} 3450 \\ 3357 \\ \hline 93 \end{array}$$

93

1774

$$\begin{array}{r} 3540 \\ 3453 \\ \hline 87 \end{array}$$

87

1775

$$\begin{array}{r} 3793 \\ 3541 \\ \hline 252 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 252 \\ \hline 567 \end{array}$$



# Cul

6/9/71

Dr. Isador Silver      Wash Univ  
furnished the following

Etymological dictionary of French language  
by Albert Dauzat

first use of cul is in 13<sup>th</sup> Century  
where E. Boileau uses adjectival form  
culier (masc) & culiere (fem)  
as meaning related to the anus

The source is culus in Latin

There is also in 1355 the ~~word~~ culée relating  
to masonry (maybe its a hole in the wall)

This proves cul de sac is  
anal



The Columbian Magazine for May 1789

Vol 3 p. 286

"Observations on the Poison of Copper and Brass"  
by William Falconer

"Halfpence and farthings are frequently given to children to play with, and, as they generally put their Toys in their mouths, they are often swallowed, or part of the copper abraded by their Teeth."

p288 "It is a well known maxim among house-keepers that pickles will never be green, unless a copper or brass pan is used; and if the desired colour be not obtained thus in a sufficient degree, it is common, I am informed, to throw in a few halfpence afterwards, which seldom fails to impart the tinge required."



See hoarding of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d during  
revolution

Jan 6, 1777 N.Y. Gazette  
referring to New England.  
" Those who have gold and silver, and even  
coppers, carefully hoard them, \* \* \*

3-6-65

WEEK ENDED

SUMMARY OF SALES REPORT

June 28, 1781

Letter from John Bradford to

refers to Benj Dudley Samuel Huntington  
" He tells me that if Congress can see meet to strike a  
~~Mr. Dudley~~  
Parcel of Coppers for a Currency he can make the  
Apparatus and go through the whole process

See Taxay Book

# Rhode Island

June 1763 Act

Nothing else is lawful money but  
gold + silver

After Jan 1, 1764 the coin will pass  
at

|                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Spanish Milled Dollar | 6 <u>s</u> |
| English Crown (5s)    | 6 s 8 d    |
|                       | 1 d        |

" three ~~£~~ English farthings

And English Half-Pence, in greater or  
less Numbers, in proportion

Can be taken at higher value.



of the Cont Congress of  
the Ordinance, Oct 16, 1786  
says

4/ state coppers @ 1¢ = 172 grains  
are to pass

check it out



Tom Sawyer

Chap I Reference to "coppers"



The Columbian Magazine Phila Aug 1787 Vol I p. 613

Phila Aug 22 A letter from a ~~member~~ member of Congress to an officer  
of rank in South Carolina mentions that it is  
probable the base copper of Europe, will be transported  
into the Southern States, as New-York, New Jersey,  
and Pennsylvania have raised the currency, so as to  
make it no object to send any to them."



Andrew M. Smith

Visitors Guide & History of the United States Mint

Phila 1885

p73 The Tong Cents are of two kinds

Geo III - Immense

Geo III - vt 1788



Catalogue of New York State Library: 1856

Albany 1857

p. 183 British Coins

no 336 George 3d Halfpenny 1788 Britannia Copper  
Donor (J. Seibach)

under U. S. Dates are ~~not~~ listed date x date

No New York pieces

only Wood's Figures Coins Mass Vt

Many large size copper tokens

Cleveland Pub Lib

Aug 1962



Amer Museum Vol II <sup>No 14</sup> p 403 Oct 1787

Report of a Committee of the New York assembly on the  
Subject of copper coinage Mar 5, 1787.

published in full



Bursk  
July 1964

In 1783 Mr. Fox presented a petition from Westminster Traders, complaining of the great prevalence of counterfeit halfpence. Indeed by this time little other than base halfpence and farthings were in circulation, and what genuine copper coinage there was had fallen into a disgraceful condition. Spasmodic ~~attempts~~ efforts had been made from time to time to check the growing evil, but without success. In Birmingham, as early as 1742, seven men, under a strong guard of soldiers, were sent to Warwick goal, they having been detected in carrying and uttering counterfeits. In 1751 a raid was made at a public house in London, and 4 ~~lb~~ cwt of spurious copper pieces seized, taken to the Tower, and destroyed. Meetings were held all over the country, and money rewards offered to informers. One such meeting was held in Birmingham in February, 1776, of the principal inhabitants, and a reward of £20 proclaimed. The public were informed that the real value of sixty counterfeit halfpence was on three pence. In 1778 the principal traders met at a Cooks Coffee House in Cherry Street, and signed an agreement to prosecute offenders; and in 1780 the officers of the town announced their determination to put a stop to the manufacture of base coin. But all was to no purpose. The traffic continued with unabated vehemence; and in defiance of law and remonstrance the forgers' art flourished.

## Machins Mills coin

Dickerson Plate X No 3 is a

1787 Geo III Rex - Britannia

probably ~~possibly~~ the first <sup>recognition</sup> ~~illustration~~ of the  
piece. (Check it) Under Coin discussion.

Comment is amusing p. 106

\*\*\* ~~the~~ we have heard of a type of these coins absolutely  
leaving the name of George III. We must suppose, however,  
for the honor of the State of Connecticut and its enterprising  
merchant coiners, that the artist of this type had not  
heard of the recognition of our national independence."



June 27, 1776 NY Journal or, the General Advertiser

" We hear it's proposed, that after three Months, the  
Currency of all copper coin made of base Metal, or  
wanting in Weight, is to be totally suppressed "

Same item in July 1, 1776 p. 2

New-York Gazette: and the Weekly Mercury

obtain expanded version. There is  
more

Penna

21st day of third month  
~~May 21~~ 1698

Is this Mar or June

~~May 21~~

Lead + pewter  $\frac{1}{2}$  d + fairly

Scott

Cty in Col Penna  
p. 9.



Scott Ctf in Col Penna  
p 86

ctf  $\frac{1}{2}$  made in England  
sent to NY in 1753  
may be sent to Phila

they are cast Geo II not Geo III

Coppers

The Earliest Canadian Paper  
Money and Bills of Credit

by Chas W. Schuch

Memorata Sept 1861

June 1865 Vol XI p 666

Describes some of

George King ~~of the~~

Public

dated June 1st 1774

Seniors

3 Coppers

6 "

12 "

15 "

20 "

25 "

article copied from Sparks  
(Over)

Sparks Numismatic Circular  
for July 1926



Crosby March 3, 1700(1)  
p 116

~~Mass~~

Province Pence recommended  
~~authorized~~

|  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| Genl Assembly of R.I. fixed value of   | Bidney S. Reder            |
| Corns in 1764                          | Some accounts of the Bills |
| three English farthings 1d             | of Credit of Rhode Island  |
| A Spanish milled dollar 6s             | Providence 1880            |
| etc                                    | p. 99                      |
| Penalty for passing at any other value |                            |



A J N

Vol 17 p 64 (Jan 1883)

Non Vi Virtute  
new variety with  
E Plumbus Unum

appeared in  
Scott Sale of 3/13/82 #155

Oct 1857

Journal Album on Hist Mag Vol 1 of 300  
points out U.S. law of 1792 that our coppers shall be  
current (he is part wrong except cts) and that

"miserable worn out English halfpence"  
are a burden (more of this  
good quote)



Machins Counterparts  
are described in Taxay  
p. 26-27 in ~~the~~  
Ctf Musstruck + Indrail

SPN Library  
1966

Catalogue of United States and Foreign Coins, Medals, etc.  
1884-5

John W. Haseltine

page 6

11 Pennsylvania Cents as follows

7 cny Cents, ~~Head of George II~~

40 1.00

10 cny Cents, head of George III

40 1.00

Philadelphia brass

40 2.00



Aster Copper  $\frac{1}{2}d + \frac{1}{4}d$

" many counterfeits passed about under the Name  
of Raps: " Drapers letter I p. "

" the great want of small Money was further proved by the  
common Use of Raps, a counterfeit Coin of such base Metal  
that what passes for a Half-penny is not worth half a Farthing "

p. 74

Raps

letter III p. 83.

Dickeson p 96

"Whereas divers ill disposed persons have  
manufactured or imported into the State,  
quantities of base metals in the semblance  
of British half-pence and other coins. \*\*\*"

7/14/1781



John St. Johns Sale by <sup>Weg</sup> Chapman      Forward

~~Phila~~ Johns Born in 1839 . Began collecting 1850.

" His mother made a purchase of the charge named  
a half penny of George II of England which she gave her  
little son, much to his delight and this was the start of his  
numismatic interests " " " "

The Boston Gazette & Country Journal  
April 11, 1785

Providence Apr 2 (not quoted)

Jonathan Drown, of Rehobeth,  
pleaded guilty to counterfeiting  
Spanish Dollars. & was ~~convicted~~  
sentenced to two hours in pillory and  
£ 30 fine.

Boston Gazette & Country Journal  
Mar 9, 1787

PUNS

In the trial of an indictment for counterfeiting money  
the bag containing the money in question, being produced  
on the table, a lawyer turning it up and the money  
not readily coming out, said "this money is not  
current."



Machin's Mills — N.Y. coins.

discussion

"New York Colonial Coinage" by Edgar H. Adams

Numismatist Apr. 1913 Vol 26, p 219

many quotations of standard sources.

A J N

Vol V No. 1

Oct 1870

p 42

Suggested that making of  
British obv & State reverse  
was means of avoiding  
prosecution of passers in Canada  
& Ulster carriers thus did it.



A J N Vol V p 42 (Oct 1870)

Machin Mills

Discussion as to use in Canada of British  $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢

No use to coiners, only to passer in Canada

The muling might result in freedom from  
prosecution in Canada.

Says it is ~~conjecture~~.

~~the~~ Counterfeiting guineas & dollars - dies on ship  
May 29 1786 Comethunt Comant caught 6 men

---

Jan 12, 1789 Com Comant  
Ct Dollars + dies caught

---

Newport News

May 29, 1782

The post from New London informs, that  
Monday last several expt. Persons were found  
at or near East Haddam, on Connecticut  
River, and committed to Hartford Jail, as  
counterfeits of money. They were on board a  
small sloop which had been in the river  
considerable time. A quantity of counterfeit  
coin, said to be well executed was found on  
board, with also for Guineas, Dollars and  
Pistareens.



Coppers were imported from  
England to New York as a profitable  
speculation (about 1737)

NY, Cal Docs Vol V p. 117

Hickes p 25  
NY Currency

Machuss Mills

AJN

Vol 22 p 22

Charles W. Betts

was born in Newburgh, NY 8/13/45

& moved to New Haven in 1855

Of all places ~~to~~ be born  
He left his collection to Yale - thus the Ctf  $\frac{1}{2}$ d  
His first paper was the Ctf  $\frac{1}{2}$ d

Petition of James Swan Mar 15. 1866 *copy pp 230*

That your Petitioner with the community at large very  
sincerely feeling the want of a circulating medium, which may  
neither depreciate, as reported, or hoarded by the rich & & &  
"to spread a medium which can without loss or depreciation  
~~which~~ communicate freely amongst the poor, & which may tend  
to retain the base coin that is so plenty among us."

Printed and Published by J. H. B. & Co. at the Press of J. H. B. & Co. No. 100 N. 3rd St. Phila. Pa.

THE UNITED STATES

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN SENATE  
JANUARY 1866

1866

1866

1866



July 17, 1783 PENNSY JOURNAL AND THE WEEKLY ADVERTISER

Philadelphia

A correspondent desires the printer to inform the public that bad halfpence in imitation of coppers are circulating; they are easily known from the genuine coppers, as they are of base metal cast in sand, filed round the edges and in some the gate may be distinguished by which the metal entered in casting. From the fresh marks of the file, there is reason to suppose they were made in this city!!

6/8/59

# The Money Supply of the American Colonies Before 1730

by Custer P. Nettels

Univ of Wis. Studies in Soc Science and History 46 20  
Madison 1934

p. 162

law forbade export of English coin, but not foreign coin or bullion  
to the colonies 5 Chap II Chap 7.

p. 174

Com of Mint July 9, 1701 approved of Spanish colonial  
design of copper coins were of full intrinsic value  
No promise would issue then under these circumstances  
so it had effect of killing the proposal.

p. 175

Conn accused of ~~of~~ coining great quantities of  
copper  $\frac{1}{4}d + \frac{1}{2}d$  before 1715 under pretence of having  
obtained the right from the crown — Richard Hook told of Penn  
no basis for  
4/7/1715  
C.O. 5:1465 —

p. 170

the Colonies complained repeatedly of the want of  
 $\frac{1}{4}d \frac{1}{2}d + 1d$  (5 citations)



Pennsyl Evening Post, and Daily Advertiser  
(first daily paper in America)

last issue 10/26/1784 (Library of Congress)

1775-1784 Pennyl Evening Post (various tri-weekly bi-weekly)

Proceed of Amer Antiq Soc ~~Proc~~ for April 1921 p 226

New Series Vol 31

Says last paper was called

"All the News for Two Coppers"

~~at~~  
Please check

OK



R. G. BOOTH

Bookseller

THE OLD FIRE STATION

HAY-ON-WYE

via HEREFORD

I CAN QUOTE POST FREE

PLEASE QUOTE

PLEASE SEND

IS THE FOLLOWING OF INTEREST?

Bratton's

vol I p 63

Civilized America

comment on slang

word not worth a  
copper

Institution 1st City on Pa  
Nimrod Review Jan, 1947 p 5 Vol 4 No 1

Banking in America

in McCleod's "Dictionary of Political Economy" (London 1863)  
says it contains much on 1740 paper money problems + a good bibliography

---

Chalmers p.19

The record books of the Royal Mint refer to the  
return betw 1783 and 1789 of several hundred  
weights of halfpence from Maryland, Phila and New York  
(get in)



## INQUIRIES

In the May 17, 1786 issue of the Massachusetts Centennial, the enclosed extract is supposed to exist. I am partially interested in whether the London dateline of March 27, 1786 is correct and if the London newspaper is indicated as this particular misstatement was previously contradicted by another newspaper, in London, on March 16, 1786.

On March 4, 1786, in the Massachusetts Centennial, the enclosed comment was made and I do not have the complete text. Would you be kind enough to add the balance of the words in the article.

Jan 17  
1787  
In a January, 1787 Massachusetts Centennial, there is a statement "The coppersmith, however, continues to do much evil". I would like to know what January 1787 issue it is and what the balance of the article might be.

In February, 1786, Benjamin Eastabrook, of Rehoboth, Massachusetts, was tried and convicted, in Boston, for passing counterfeit copper coins. Would it be possible for you to locate this article in the Massachusetts Centennial and send me its text.

"Tory cent, obv. George III, rev. Britannia,

25¢"

Priced Catalogue of Coins and Medals for Sale by  
Alfred S. Robinson, Numismatist  
Marble Block, Hartford, Conn.

1861

Very important treatise on  
ctf copper Craig p 253

In England possession and transport  
of counterfeit copper was illegal  
under the 1742 act Craig p 252



MEMO



TRADEMARK

FROM THE DESK OF MARK A. EDISON

Published in 1774

~~Principles of Trade~~  
~~Reflections on Coin or General~~  
~~Benjamin's Appendix to the Above Essay~~

by Benj Franklin +  
George Whately

In the appendix of the essay there is:

19. That, as to copper, it is  
as fit for money or a counter  
as gold and silver, provided it be  
coined of a proper weight  
and fineness; and just so much  
will be useful as will serve  
to make up small parts in  
exchanges between man and  
man."

Better Buy Brezner

1/2 d Forgeries in America

Ernest Bramah  
A Supplement to English Regal  
Copper Coins.

Num Rev Vol 1, No 7      Mar 1944      p 16

mentions a few forgeries of  
British 1/2

including 1788 of American manufacture

Numismatist Sept 1967 p1132

Numismatic Terms Standardization Committee

"Bungtown - A name given to imitations  
of British halfpence, which were produced and  
circulated in America during the period 1784-1789  
often being antedated.



Numismatist July 1961 - p 885

In Numismatic Glossary by E. G. Brailfield  
"Bungtowns" - Imitations of English royal half pence  
that circulated in Pennsylvania and other areas  
in the latter part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century

Taken from ANA 1948 edition of Stuart Mosher,  
An Introduction to Coin Collecting.

Bungtown defined by  
hymn Glaser

a Ctf in America (1968)  
p. 55, 56, 57

There ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> no confusion <sup>between</sup> the word <sup>and being</sup> burn, <sup>even</sup> though there is proximity ~~between~~ <sup>between</sup> the parts referred to, <sup>definitely referring to the</sup> the word burn, ~~and~~ buttocks

~~found~~ in Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream, II, 1, 53;

Measure for Measure, II, 1, 221-2; and Timon of Athens, I, 2, 240.  
Excessive bowing is there described as the "putting out of burns".



N<sup>o</sup> 1 report of 3/5/87

" A very great number of pieces in imitation of British half-pence, but much lighter, of inferior copper and badly executed. - these are generally called by the name of Birmingham Coppers. as it is pretty well known that they are made there, and imported in casks, under the name of Hard Ware, or wrought copper."

Also refers to

" Birmingham half-pence "

" Birmingham coppers "

C p 291-2

(Balance of article under Fugio file.)

This portion quoted in AJN Vol.18 p.44 Oct 1883 with the citation printed as 1875 in error

" When the American copper coin is to be struck, it will be necessary, that the genuine British halfpence, or coppers, should pass current here, at ~~112~~ 112½ to the dollar, or 15 to the shilling ; which is only 4 1/6 per cent more than the rate at which they circulate in Britain. The circulation of the Birmingham , and other counterfeit and base copper coin, should be totally suppressed, whereby an end would be put to the iniquitous of importing into this country ( or manufacturing here) such base coin, and purchasing gold and silver with it, of near four times its intrinsic value (comparing their nominal sums) for exportation; a trade which is carried to a most alarming height, and attended with very dangerous consequences."

This article was written in Phila Aug 22, 1785 and submitted in Congress and published in broadside

John Beale Bordley (moved to Phila. in 1791)  
was from Maryland. (He lived on Wye Island)  
and came often to Phila. after he married a Mifflin  
in 1776.

Pa. Mag. of Hist. & Biography, Vol. LXVI, 1. c. 414  
p. 410-415

This confirms his authorship of "On Monies, Coins,  
Weights & Meausres".

epn  
atb  
2/27/61



On Monies, Coins, Weights and Measures,  
proposed for the United States of America  
By John Beale Bordley (1727-1804)

Philadelphia, Printed by Daniel Humphreys, in Front Street  
near the Drawbridge 1789

p.12

COPPER COINS

A TREATISE on copper coin, as far as I know, is a new thing. There are reasons why these coins ought to be limited in their power. If they were to have the power to sink debts, as gold and silver have, they would be used vexatiously; and that would affect credits. Even if the forcing them in payments should be confined to 5 per cent. of debts, or be at all allowed of, it would have that tendency; and a creditor receiving a debt of 10,000 dollars, each cent thereof weighing 140 grains, at 5 per centum, would be burdened with 500 dollars worth, that is 50,000 pieces of copper of the weight of 1000 avoirdupois pounds; which selling as old copper, although it be at 20 cents a pound, would make a loss of 20,000 cents on his whole claim; and moreover would burden him with cartage, storage, and expences of sales; so that near 3 per cent. of his debt would be lost: which would affect commerce, especially with foreigners. An ordinance of the late Congress, enacts that the treasury, and if I rightly understand it, the proprietors of bullion carried to the mint, shall be paid 5 per cent. of their claims in copper cents. Ought those who carry bullion to the mint, to be burdened with inconvenience?

It is said, the late Congress contracted for copper, to be coined at their mint and issued as above; and their ordinance seems to intend that the public mint shall have the coining of copper cents. It is proper it should be so, exclusively. Having found from the report of a committee of the General Assembly of New York, in 1787, that the best red copper in sheets costs, at the factories in England, 11d sterling a pound; on which they



say the charges are 20 to 25 per cent. and that copper in mass, or old copper to be melted into ingots and drawn into sheets in the plating mills costs 9d sterling - charges included, I thereon make an estimate of the cost in coining copper cents, of 50 to the pound of copper, for a dollar worth 50d. sterling, thus: for a pound of copper, 24 cents; coining, 12 cents; together 36 cents, the cost. The pound of copper so coined passes for 50 cents. - The ordinance of the late Congress says,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  lbs. of copper shall be coined into 100 cents, (for a dollar of the value of 52d.  $\frac{46}{100}$  sterling value) at which rate each cent weighs  $157\frac{1}{2}$  grains. The old English halfpennies, I suspect, weigh about 166 grains. I have one which weighs 156 grains and appears to be true Tower coin, such as were not uncommon fifty years since; it is, however, so worn that the impressions are nearly lost: it therefore may be presumed that it weighed 8 or 10 grains more when new: the Britannia side is quite smooth - the other side faintly shews the impression of a head or heads in the manner of a William and Mary halfpence. The New-York committee further report, that 48 genuine British halfpence, when new, weigh 1 lb. avoirdupois, each piece 146 grains; 60 Birmingham coppers, are 1 lb. or  $116\frac{1}{2}$  grains each: and  $46\frac{4}{10}$  genuine Jersey coppers are 1 lb. or 151 grains, each.\*

The thought entertained by some of making the copper cent to be of intrinsic value, is alarming; as it threatens a design to enforce a base and cumbersome metal in discharge of debts. The copper cent in that case must be  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times as large as is proposed at present, or 350 grains. Why encrease an odium, or over busily adventure on a hazardous innovation in a delicate affair?

Copper coin, from the baseness of its metal, is not proper for a money to be forced on creditors. It is to be considered merely as a convenient substitute in the closing a pay-



ment, for want of silver coin small enough for minute fractional purposes: as such it is voluntarily received. Hucksters choose to receive it, as do others, occasionally, in small sums as is convenient to them. There would be no need of copper coins, were it not that cents and pence would be in too small pieces, for preservation, when in silver; wherefore the base and bulky metal was introduced, merely for small change. If, however it shall be thought proper to give to copper any force, - which it is wished may be never attempted, it ought to be, if possible, without injury or alarm to creditors. Forced payments in copper may in that case be limited to 5 or at most 9 cents on the close of full payments, large or small: on the payment of 10,000 dollars, no more to be forced on the creditor than in a case of the least sum; because there is true and honest money in gold and silver of standard intrinsic value as low as ten or 5 cents, and the coppers are no further useful than for closing the fractional balance. If the necessity of a copper coinage can be avoided, it may be considered how far it would answer to coin cents in pieces of silver, whose periphery is enlarged by forming them into a sort of rings with milled edges or coined surfaces: or rather the composition called billon may be coined, solid as are common copper halfpence: it is more valuable than copper alone, being of copper and silver, yet bulky enough to be easily preserved. A billon-cent of a 50d. dollar, half copper and half silver, which is the exact mint alloy for fine gold would be near as large as a quarter of a Spanish dollar. But copper cents, the size, very nearly of an English halfpenny, with its division into half pieces of 5 mills, are preferable to billon cents, and to small rings worth a cent each, as these would be too slender. The half cent in copper would be about the size of a farthing English.

On the whole of what I can collect concerning copper coins, it seems, they do not pass so much because of their small



intrinsic worth, as by common consent induced by a degree of necessity, merely as they are tokens for fractional sums which cannot be well issued in real money of the precious metals. This inference is countenanced by the considerable deviations in their weights, when issued even by the authority of nations tenacious of their character. English halfpennies of pure copper have been issued from the English mint of the contents of 156, if not 166, down to 146 grains, as they now are and have been upwards of sixty years: and base copper issued by private coiners light as 116 grains, by consent, have passed currently as the best, to a vast amount, and great loss of the community. The quantity of metal appointed by public authority to be contained in copper coins, being a good deal arbitrary, the American States may have their cent coin, of fine copper, that shall nearly have the weight of a British halfpenny: The British halfpenny weighs 146 grains of fine copper.

Two pounds of copper will give 100 cents, each weighing 140 grains. The cents, for a device, may have a man, on one side of them, erect, comfortably cloathed, and holding a spade in his hand: read, - Fro. Indust. Cents beco. Eag. - On the reverse, of this base coin - a coin that cannot well be deemed money, instead of the eagle let there be, on the margin of the cent, this reading: - "United States of America"; - and in the middle of the piece read - "Cent". There will be a fair blank between the readings: which may be lightly ornamented or left blank, or crowded in Gothic taste - if it be the taste.

Footnote on page 14.

\* The undermentioned copper coins, weigh as follows:

|   | A.D. | Gra.  |
|---|------|-------|
| Produit des mines de France   | 1727 | - 182 |
| Liard de France   | 1698 | - 54  |
| Vir ginia halfpenny   | 1773 | - 120 |
| U.S.  | 1783 | - 145 |
| 1/4 Stuber  | 1764 | - 38  |
| + Spanish milled piece  | 1774 | - 174 |
| English halfpenny, worn smooth  |      | - 156 |
| ‡ Ditto, new and bright, never circulated   | 1729 | - 146 |
| Eight Birmingham coppers, average   |      | - 116 |
| + Quere, whether this piece is of the compos-<br>ition called billon?   |      |       |
| ‡ This is from a barrel of halfpence imported by the late<br>Mr. Bennet of Wye, from England, above 40 years ago; and<br>I am favoured with it by his executor.   |      |       |
| The fairest sort of Birmingham coppers that are now in<br>circulation. - The coined impressions are good and plain.<br>Two of them shew partial marks of sand: - therefore, I<br>presume, they are first cast into blanks of the proper<br>size, and then coined; which saves expense of rolling<br>the copper into plates, cutting them, &c. |      |       |



SHIP FAITHFUL STEWARD SUNK 1785

From the Londonderry Journal, November 15, 1785

On Thursday, September 1, 1785 the vessel, "Faithful Steward", bound from Londonderry, Ireland to Philadelphia with 249 passengers, at the hour of ten, it was advisable to take soundings, and to their surprise they found themselves in four fathoms of water, though at dark there was not the slightest appearance of land. Every exertion was used to run the vessel off shore, but in a few minutes she struck ground, when it was necessary to cut away the mast, etc., all of which went overboard.

On the morning of September 2nd, they found themselves off Potomac bank, near Indian River, about four leagues to the southward of Cape Henlopen. Every effort was made to save the unhappy sufferers who remained on the deck during the night, although distant from the shore only about 100 yards.

The same evening she broke to pieces. The sea running very high the boats were with difficulty disengaged from the wreck, but before they could be got manned they drifted ashore; therefore all relief was cut off except by swimming ashore or getting on pieces of the wreck, and we are sorry to add, of the above, only 68 persons were saved, among whom were the master, his mate and ten seamen. During the course of the day, the inhabitants came down to the beach in numbers, and used every means in their power to relieve the unfortunate people on board, among whom were about 100 women and children of whom only 7 were saved."

The information above was secured by Rev. J. Deveridge, 27 Broad St.  
New London, Connecticut.



NEWPORT MERCURY

Jan. 19, 1786

Boston, January 9

A new and promising Manufactory has lately been established by Mons. Gillet de Vallet, and Co, at Parker's Falls, New Hampshire, under the patronage of the Hon. Major-General Sullivan, at whose house, we are informed, the Manufacturers now reside. They have made considerable progress, and are now selling large buttons of all colours, from 6 to 12 coppers per doz. small ones in proportion; mohair of all colours, at 2 coppers per skein. Silk knee-garters of all colours, at 10 coppers per pair; common do. 6 coppers; Hair-Buttons for hats, at 8 coppers per doz, fashionable loops for hats, at 3 coppers per yard; round do. at one copper per yard; while cord of different qualities and prices. \* \* \*

St. Louis Public Library

John Pickering

A Vocabulary or Collection of Words and  
Phrases which have been supposed to be peculiar  
to the United States of America

(Cambridge, Mass. 1816)

#### COPPERS

The common name in New England for British  
halfpence; which, until the coinage of our Cents,  
constituted the copper currency of this country:  
We used to say a copper's worth of any thing, as  
in England they would say a penny's worth. The  
name is already nearly obsolete.

Bung or Bungstown not mentioned

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September 9, 1960

Atkins unpublished Ms  
dated Dec. 12, 1904

Ashmolean Museum

"That it was the intention of the issuers to pass these imitations as genuine coins, no person who gives the subject due consideration can doubt, the fact that the obverse and reverse almost always agree may be cited as proof. (The word imitation refers to evasions. The word agree means resemble Geo. II or Geo III types). This will be noticed in the second part of this list where the obverse are arranged according to their resemblance to the armoured, or naked bust of George II, or III, the armoured bust being issued for England, its imitations with the exception of about 5% have a figure representing Britannia, whilst the naked bust being issued for Ireland, the greater part of its imitations have the Harp crowned as was usual on those pieces."

In this ms he adds 160 fresh pieces

His  $\frac{1}{2}$ d go up to 605 in number

His  $\frac{1}{4}$ d go from #606 to #660 or 55 pieces.

atb  
9/19/60

September 9, 1960

Atkins unpublished Ms  
dated Dec. 12, 1904

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atb  
9/19/60



## INQUIRIES

In the May 17, 1786 issue of the Massachusetts <sup>Centinel</sup>~~Centennial~~, the enclosed extract is supposed to exist. I am partially interested in whether the London dateline of March 27, 1786 is correct and if the London newspaper is indicated as this particular mis-statement was previously contradicted by another newspaper, in London, on March 16, 1786.

On March 4, 1786, in the Massachusetts <sup>Centinel</sup>~~Centennial~~, the enclosed comment was made and I do not have the complete text. Would you be kind enough to add the balance of the words in the article.

In a January, 1787 Massachusetts <sup>Centinel</sup>~~Centennial~~, there is a statement "The coppersmith, however, continues to do much evil". I would like to know what January 1787 issue it is and what the balance of the article might be.

In February, 1786, Benjamin Eastabrook, of Rehoboth, Massachusetts, was tried and convicted, in Boston, for passing counterfeit copper coins. Would it be possible for you to locate this article in the Massachusetts ~~Centennial~~ and send me its text.

On May 3, 1784, I believe there is an article in the Massachusetts Centennial, or some other Boston newspaper, which indicates that great quantities of British halfpence are passing in the town. I would like the complete text of this item, if you can locate it.

EPN/atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN

6/29/60



Boston, Wednesday, January 11

The copper coinage, current in this town, must be a considerable loss to the citizens at large, as the intrinsic value of most of the coppers in circulation, is not half what they pass for. Scarce a British vessel arrives in any part on the continent, but what brings very great quantities of rap half-pences, and yet shameful as it certainly is, this inundation of base metal is passed with impunity and indifference.

MASSACHUSETTS CENTINEL, March 4, 1786

"The Copper-Smiths of the neighbouring towns have done us much evil, by fabricating in large quantities and throwing into circulation pieces of base metal, resembling the current Copper Coin of the Commonwealth. This seemingly petty business has so long been transacted with impunity, that it has encreased to an alarming degree, and ought to be discouraged and condemned by every considerate citizen. Several persons, of the above description, who have been boldly vending considerable quantities of this new species of merchandize in this town, were deemed worthy of judiciary cognizance, and were punished by fine according to their demerits....."

PROVIDENCE April 17

"Within a Fortnight past, considerable Quantities of counterfeit British Halfpence have been brought here, and many of them passed in small sums. They are of base Metal, badly executed, and of Course easily detected - We are desired to mention that they are openly manufactured in a neighboring Town in the State of Massachusetts".



Providence Gazette and Country Journal

April 17, 1784

Vol. XXI No. 1059

PROVIDENCE April 17

"Within a Fortnight past, considerable Quantities of counterfeit British Halfpence have been brought here, and many of them passed in small sums. They are of base Metal, badly executed, and of Course easily detected -

We are desired to mention that they are openly manufactured in a heighboring Town in the State of Massachusetts".

L/26/1960

PLYMOUTH JOURNAL, PLYMOUTH, MASS. JANUARY 10, 1786

The Copper-Smiths of Rehoboth have done us much evil, by fabricating in large quantities and throwing into circulation pieces of base metal, resembling the current CopperCoin of the Commonwealth. This seemingly petty business has so long been transacted with impunity, that it has encreased to an alarming degree, and ought to be discouraged and condemned by every considerate citizen.

Two persons from Rehoboth of the above description, by the name of Baker, who were one day last week boldly vending considerable quantities of this new species of merchandize in this Town, were deemed worthy of cognizance, and were punished by fine according to their demerits.

Stripped of their ill-gotten gains, it is to be hoped they will teach a salutary lesson to all the brethren of the craft in their vicinity. In adopting this branch of business, they have probably evinced the truth of the old observation, that Necessity is the mother of Invention; but while they thus proceed, in violation of honesty and in defiance of Law, they will do well to recollect, that the Adage may be reversed, and that very frequently Invention is the mother of Necessity.



*The Dipl Correspond of the U. S. of Am  
Vol V Washington 1833 p.234*

Letter from John Adams, in London, to John Jay dated April 10, 1787. Original in possession of Massachusetts Historical Society in letter book of John Adams. Microfilm available at Columbia University, University of Illinois, etc.

r        r  
Grosv . Sq . April 10th, 1787

Dear Sir:

--- Secret schemes however in abundance are concerted to plunder us, in any way they can think of besides the regular course of their Commerce with us, which one would think rappacious enough. An honest tradesman, whose name is Carpenter an ingenious Engraver, lately came to me from the remotest part of the City, to give me information that an unknown Scott had applied to him to engrave a Plate, for striking the paper Bills of North & South Carolina. He laid a plan to get a witness, to a future interview, but the Scott conceived a suspicion, and would not lay open his design. Colonel Smith who attended for the purpose desired the engraver to publish the fact in the newspapers, that merchants here may be upon their guard; Carpenter went round to all the engravers in Town & found another to whom the same person had applied.

Congress or the Delegates from North & South Carolina will put that state on their guard, for it is not at all improbable the design will be pursued, by means of some other engraver of less honour than Carpenter.

There is a vast sum in Circulation here of base Copper - to the amount of several hundreds of thousands of pounds - very lately these half-pence are refused every where - I suppose in consequence of some concerted scheme, & it is supposed that they will be all purchased for a trifle and sent to the United States where they will pass for good metal and Consequently our simple Countrymen be cheated of an immense Sum.

The Board of Treasury may be ordered without the avowed interposition of Congress to give the alarm to our Citizens - and the separate States would do well to prohibit this false Money from being paid or received --- "



Worcester April 29

The publick will beware of counterfeit dollars dated 1782. They appear to be very well made and a person who is not cautious would be apt to receive them for good. The composition is supposed to be chiefly copper and antimony: - they are very brittle and on ringing them the sound is shriller than that of good dollars. The marks by which they may be known are as follows; ~~the~~ the C in CAROLUS appears to be rather larger than the other letters in the word, and the U is a little lower than the L before it; on the other side of the counterfeit dollars of that date, the words ET IND. appear like one word thus ETIND. and in the word REX, the X is apparently lower than the RE. A young fellow by the name of Queen was, on Tuesday last week, detected at Sturbridge, with eight of these dollars about him, and a number of utensils for counterfeiting New England shilling pieces, &c.

It would be of great publick utility if people in general would be more cautious how they receive money; and upon detecting counterfeit money endeavour to trace where it came from, that those pests of society who employ their time in this infamous business may be brought to the punishment which their crimes merit.

A number of French Sous, or coppers are, by these money making artists, gilded over, and are passed for moldores, or pieces of gold of the value of 36 s. lawful; a most daring fraud, but easily detected.

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Timothy Queen, for uttering counterfeit hard money knowing it to be counterfeit, was fined forty pounds; and for having in his custody tools for counterfeiting piastres, and stamps for counterfeiting New England ~~2~~ shillings, with intent to make use of them for that purpose, was sentenced to be whipped twenty stripes, and stand one hour in the pillory.



MASSACHUSETTS SPY

June 3, 1784

The public are desired to be cautious of receiving counterfeit French Guineas. - The last inspection will denote them to be base metal: They are deficient in weight near one half - rather larger than the true ones, and much rougher.

MASSACHUSETTS SPY

July 29, 1784

By the Hartford Post

New-London, July 19

Several counterfeit dollars were lately discovered in this city and in Groton, dated 1775: they are badly executed, and may be easily discovered, being principally copper, and of a dark ~~xxxx~~ smoaky colour: they were passed by one Jenck's, a man with one hand, who was absconded from Groton; but as search is making for him, it is hoped he will be taken.

MASSACHUSETTS SPY

Sept 16, 1784

By the Hartford Post

A few days since a clan of ~~x~~ villains was detected at the westward for counterfeiting English Guineas: we can give our readers no farther description of them than that they are a little larger than the genuine, otherwise well ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~xxxx~~ executed.



MASSACHUSETTS SPY of April 29, 1784 has a ~~xxx~~ short list of gold and silver coins stolen from the librarian of Harvard College on April 13th

~~Mass~~ MASSACHUSETTS SPY of May 13, 1784 lists 8 medals struck in Holland, one of which portrays the declaration of independence and ~~the~~ another the treaty of friendship and commerce with America. A brief description of the two mentioned follows.

MASSACHUSETTS SPY of May 5, 1785 has a little to say on Carlos ~~II~~ III counterfeit dollars

MASS. Spy of Dec. 1, 1785 outlines the plan to establish a Mint for the US.

MASSACHUSETTS SPY

July 23, 1789

Rhode Island

Providence July 16

The publick is hereby informed, that on Tuesday last a person was detected in this town, attempting to pass counterfeit dollars, dated 1781 - They are of brass and plated with silver, in the same manner that buckles are done - the impression is faintly struck - and they will not ring.



I need the text of these articles

| <u>Newspaper</u>  | <u>Date</u>   | <u>Subject</u>   |
|---|---------------|--|
| N.Y. Daily Advertiser<br>(NY Hist Soc)                            | Nov 12, 1787  | - Jarvis sails for Amsterdam<br>when he should be coining copper |
| N.Y. Daily Advertiser<br>(N.Y. Hist Soc)                          | May 26, 1786  | Foreign coinage made of<br>Birmingham copper described           |
| Pennsylvania Gazette<br>(NY Public Library)                       | Aug 8, 1786   | Rate of coppers under<br>new law                                 |
| Pennsylvania Gazette<br>(NY Public Library)                       | July 18, 1787 | Pa passed act to coin<br>coppers in 1786                         |
| Pennsylvania Gazette<br>(NY Public Lib)                           | July 27, 1789 | Separation on coppers  |
| Gazette of the United States<br>(NY Public Lib)                   | Sept 5, 1789  | State of copper coin in<br>America                               |
| Independent Gazetteer <sup>(Phila)</sup><br>(N.Y. Public Library) | June 28, 1787 | Rate of coppers in NY, NJ  |
| Plymouth Journal<br>Am Antiquarian Soc.                           | Jan 10, 1786  | New England flooded<br>with base copper coin                     |
| Independent Gazetteer<br>(NY Public Library)                      | July 31, 1789 | Advertisement about<br>taking coppers in trade                   |
| Freeman's Journal <sup>(Phila)</sup><br>Am Antig Soc              | Aug 5, 1789   | Fraud in passing copper  |
| Pennsylvania Packet<br>(NY Public Library)                        | July 14, 1785 | Laws of R.I against<br>taking coppers                            |
| N.J. Gazette (Trenton)<br>(NY Hist Soc)                           | Jan 9, 1786   | Importation of coppers   |